

VIETNAM COURIER

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Up to August 23, 1969

3,320 US PLANES DOWNGED
IN NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the Fatherland Front, a delegation of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is now visiting North Viet Nam. Led by its President, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, concurrently Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, it receives a warm and affectionate welcome.

Photo: The delegation arrives in Hanoi:

Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO (right), accompanied by HOANG QUOC VIET, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, waves acknowledgement to greetings of Hanoians.



South Viet Nam

PLAF NEW DEVASTATING STRIKES

Saigon Front

In Six Days Ending August 17

- 6,000 Enemy Troops (3,500 GIs), 530 Vehicles (450 Tanks and Armoured Cars) and 70 Heavy Guns and Mortars Put out of Action; 90 Aircraft Downed or Wrecked in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Sectors.
- 1,350 Adverse Soldiers Knocked Out in My Tho Province.

Da Nang Front

In Two Days (August 12 and 13)

- About One Thousand Enemy Casualties (760 GI's).
- Phu Bai US Base (near Hue) Stormed on the Night of August 10: a US Company Wiped Out With Heavy Material Losses.
- 600 Soldiers Put out of Action, 4 Aircraft Grounded in Quang Ngai Sector.

South of DMZ

- 900 GIs Disabled, 42 Vehicles Wrecked, 12 Aircraft Downed in the First Half of August.

"De-Americanisation" of the War

Leaning on a Reed

THE US misadventure in Viet Nam is tragic and tragic more about its bankruptcy is entertained by world and American public opinion. The withdrawal of the expeditionary corps has become an unpleasant necessity forced on Washington by the Vietnamese on the one hand and by the Americans on the other.

Not resigning himself to giving up the imperialist objective, however, that fact the perfidious "hawk" Nixon thinks he has found a magic formula for a victory at cheaper price in "de-Americanisation" of the "organisation" of the war. It consists in beefing up the puppet army by drafting as many youths as possible, thrusting into their hands a quantity of weapons and equipment as modern as US military security can allow, training them in the use of this armory in the shortest delay possible and then pitting them against their compatriots in the name of the latter's freedom and self-determination.

It is a miracle of simplicity. However, this puppet army ought to be a match in the face of an adversary that has, within a quarter of a century, defeated the Japanese, the French armies, and successfully confronted the American—the three most reputed imperialist armies.

AN ARMY THAT HAS KNOWN BUT REVERSES AND HUMILIATIONS

BOOKS in the wagons of the French expeditionary corps during the "dirty" days in Indochina, the puppet army is handicapped immensely by quite an inglorious past. Its first nuclei consisted of units of auxiliary troops recruited among the riff-raff in occupied areas and recruited by the French colonials. Nguen Van Thieu, the present puppet "President" and "Commander-in-Chief", is one of these veterans because in 1946 he wore

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US OBDURACY, CAUSE OF PARIS CONFERENCE'S DEADLOCK

THE seven fruitless months of the Paris Conference and the words and deeds of the US government in that period are evidence enough of the stubborn position of the US, especially concerning two fundamental questions: the withdrawal of the US troops and the recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. In these two issues, the basic difference between US colonialist stance and the correct, fair and logical position of the Vietnamese people is only too clear.

As regards the first question, the US still insists on mutual troop withdrawal, an utterly absurd claim intended to justify the dispatch of US troops across half of the globe to invade Viet Nam and put on par the US, the aggressor, and the Vietnamese people, victims of US aggression. It also denies the sacred right of self-defense of the Vietnamese people who are fighting on their own soil. In fact, it aims at prolonging the occupation of South Viet Nam by the US expeditionary troops to stem the people's patriotic struggle and prop up the puppets.

As unmistakably pointed out in the ten point overall solution of the NFL, since the US has illegally committed troops to an aggression against South Viet Nam, it must withdraw all US and satellite troops from there without any condition whatever. This matter must be settled between Viet Nam and the US. As an international issue, it cannot be confused with another question which must be solved among the Vietnamese people themselves, that is the one concerning the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam. The position of the Vietnamese people concerning this is a principled, clear-cut and logical one.

As for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the US also suggested "general elections" and even declared readiness to accept whatever result the "elections" might yield. But the important point here is who will organize and control the elections. In the US opinion, "elections" will be organized and controlled by the Saigon puppet administration at the gunpoint of the US expeditionary troops. The US

scheme is thus transparent: the so-called "free and democratic general elections" in which the US calls on the South Vietnamese people to take part after laying down arms would in no way differ from the previous "elections" farces that brought Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu to the puppet presidency.

The NFL ten-point overall solution is unequivocal in this respect: to guarantee the real right of self-determination to the South Vietnamese people and to ensure really free and democratic general elections, a provisional coalition government must be set up, embracing the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality. This government will organize free and democratic general elections, work out a constitution and pave the way for the formation of a full-fledged coalition government. Such general elections can be held only when the US and satellite troops have already been completely pulled out of South Viet Nam. This obviously is a fair and reasonable position, consistent with reality and the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and right to self-determination.

A comparison between the reasonableness of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the NFL and the stubbornness of the US on the problem of US troop withdrawal, on the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and other problems leads to this conclusion: the US still refuses to give up its colonialist policy, to recognize the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and still holds fast to the puppet administration in the hope of dragging on its occupation of South Viet Nam, repressing the South Vietnamese people and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. It is therefore clear that the US has not "gone as far as it can" in the search for peace, contrarily to what Nixon has claimed. Instead, the US has gone to great lengths of obduracy and perfidy to implement its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam."

Than Dan
August 20, 1969

On the other hand, US policy is vividly illustrated by the intensification of US military activities in South Viet Nam. In fact, the US, satellite and puppet troops frequently conduct "sweep" operations against the people, committing barbarous crimes, US B-52s daily drop thousands of tons of bombs devastating villages and crop fields. The US continues using in South Viet Nam lethal weapons and war means such as napalm, phosphorous and seven-ton bombs, toxic gas and chemicals. US aircraft daily carry out recon-mission flights over the DRVN territory and bomb many places. To put into effect the so-called "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war, the US is feverishly strengthening and equipping the puppet army on the US payroll.

The atrocious war crimes committed by the US aggressors have been condemned by the progressive mankind. Yet, Nixon has had the cheek to say that the years of US aggression in Viet Nam were "the finest hours of the United States."

These cynical words once again prove that, despite its ever heavier setbacks and predicament, the US still refuses to give up its aggressive design and neo-colonialist policy against South Viet Nam."

This reactionary and obdurate stand of the US is the cause of the Paris Conference's deadlock. At the Conference's 30th session last August 14, Minister Xuan Thuy stressed: "The US must bear full responsibility for the lack of progress of the Paris Conference, for the continuation of the war in Viet Nam, for American youths being sent to useless death, and for the disastrous effects of US authorities' policy of war and aggression in Viet Nam."

Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, on August 7 denounced the US for foot-dragging the Paris Conference and pointed out, "The US has not 'gone as far as it can' in opening the door to peace, but on the contrary it has gone too far in prolonging the war, and in swindling about peace. It is the US and nobody else, which should be held fully responsible for prolonging the war and the sufferings and suffering sustained by the Vietnamese people."

31st Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 21, 1969)

Vietnamese People's Representatives Bare Washington's Bellicosity

guns based on US warships and south of the DMZ had been carrying on bombings of the southern coastal areas of the DRVN. On August 6, 1969, US planes destroyed two villages in Quang Binh province, inflicting many civilian casualties.

to prettify with "legal and constitutional" face and to shore up at the cost of many young American lives. There is no clearer indication that the Washington rulers are flouting public opinion as well as the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people.

In bringing out in relief once again the soundness of the 10-point solution put forth by the NFL and PRG of the RSVN, the Vietnamese people's representatives underlined the will for peace of the DRVN government and PRG. "We have carefully examined the proposals of the delegates of the US and Saigon administrations," said Mr Ha Van Lau. "We have many a time analysed and criticised their negative character. If we dismiss it, it is because it aims only at implementing US aggressive and neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam, trampling underfoot the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and denying the South Vietnamese their right to self-determination. As has been recalled many times, we are ready to negotiate with the parties concerned a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue on the basis of the NFL to points. If the Viet Nam war drags on, if the Paris Conference marks time, it must be entirely blamed on the US and Saigon administrations."

Vietnam COURIER

At the 31st plenary session of the Paris Conference, the Vietnamese people's representatives, Ambassador Ha Van Lau (DRVN) and Minister Nguyen Thi Binh (PRG of RSVN), flatly rejected the US and Saigon puppet administrations' denial of their bellicosity and protestations of their "love of peace."

The two delegates pointed out that in the North, US planes had continued their reconnaissance missions and bombing against many localities between the 17th and 19th parallels. American

whether they mean that the US and puppet clique will go on deliberately stale-mating the Paris Conference!

Once again, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh unmasked the Thieu-Ky-Huang triumvirate, a gang of vile traitors to the country, of fire-eating dictators rotten to the core, who persecute all those who dare stand for peace, independence and neutrality. They are at one another's throat in a scramble for selfish interests and positions. It is that administration despised by all the South Vietnamese but by the US has been doing its best

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

All-Viet Nam Militant Solidarity, an Invincible Force

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by HOANG QUOC VIET, member of the VNAW Party CC, member of the Provisional National Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, at the rally in honour of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE US aggressors and their lackeys, traitors to the country, want to turn the South Viet Nam into a colony and hideous stronghold and hideout. But the flames of struggle in the South Viet Nam urban centres have never ceased spreading. The widespread offering of the patriotic forces of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people early last year have carried the patriotic war into the towns. In coordination with the people's liberating armed forces, the patriotic and revolutionary forces in the towns all to a man stood up, and attacked the enemy in his very lair. Intellectuals, students, pupils, industrial workers, traders, workers, functionaries, and even many officers and soldiers of the puppet army, of different political tendencies and religious creeds have taken part in this movement and have organized themselves, together with the people at large, to fight the US aggressors and their lackeys, for national salvation.

The Vietnamese Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being amidst such effervescence. The event was of tremendous political importance in the stage of the South Viet Nam revolution. It spelled out the vigorous development of the patriotic movement of the South Vietnamese urban garrison.

Mutual support and co-ordinated actions, between the NFL and the VNAW, have greatly enhanced the combat abilities for the broadening and consolidation of the national united front against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huang gang of traitors.

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At the welcome rally: The crowd enthusiastically welcomes combatants from the great Southern front.

We Will Do Our Best To Mobilize South Viet Nam Townspeople To Step Up Their Struggle Against US Aggression

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO, Head of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE tremendous successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, especially the splendid achievements in the stage of widespread offensives and uprisings can be ascribed to the ardent patriotism, the deep hatred for the US aggressors and their lackeys, the spirit of self-sacrifice for the Fatherland, and the valiant fighting of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. The heroic people of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organizer and leader of the victorious resistance of the South Vietnamese people. They are also to be national salvation and unity of mind and might of all patriots.

We are very glad and moved at the great accomplishments recorded by our North Vietnamese kith-and-kin in national construction and in building a new life in the North before the counteroffensive and the spirit of self-sacrifice for the Fatherland, and the valiant fighting of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. The heroic people of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organizer and leader of the victorious resistance of the South Vietnamese people. They are also to be national salvation and unity of mind and might of all patriots.

The big successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have driven the US aggressors and their lackeys to a position of passiveness, weakness and utter isolation. The failure of the US imperialists is all too clear to everybody, but for more than a year now they have remained obdurate and

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WEEKLY SURVEY

VERY active in all theatres of operations, the PLAF made very heavy attacks on the Saigon front, hammering unrelentingly at the positions of US division "First Cav.", "Tropic Lightning" and "Big Red One", Armoured Regiment II and puppet Infantry Division 5 in the provinces of Tay Ninh, northwest, and Binh Long, North of Saigon (Hon Quan Region).

Saigon outer "defence belt" was strongly shaken. In six days from the night of August 11 to 17, about 80 attacks were launched by the PLAF in these two provinces. The heavy losses suffered by the enemy who had 6,000 men (750 GLs) put out of action, puppet Armoured Regiment 15 badly mauled, 5 battalions, an armoured squadron and 16 companies wiped out, 530 military vehicles (150 tanks and armoured carriers), 70 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged, 90 aircraft downed or wrecked, 26 war vessels sunk or burned.

Southwest of Saigon, the enemy was taken to task in My Tho and Long An sectors (15 targets) as well as in My Tho and 10 targets of US Division (Dong Tam). From August 12 to 16, 1,350 enemy troops and 40 vehicles were put out of action.

THE first six months of this year saw, among other things, a stepped-up political drive in South Viet Nam, which successively helped enhance the offensive posture of the people and their armed forces.

More than 20,000 highlanders in Central Viet Nam rose up in the provinces under review, razing 93 "strategic hamlets" and Krong H'Rong, southeast of Tan Canh township in Kontum province, which involved some 10,000 people.

In the month ending March 22, the people in the central provinces of Central Viet Nam demolished 150 "strategic hamlets" and "refugee areas", asserting their power over areas with an over 200,000 population.

In the provinces west and southwest of the Mekong river revolts broke out in 222 "strategic hamlets" with the participation of more than 260,000 people.

Slattering blows were dealt at the enemy right in areas supposed to be very "secure", people in the provincial capitals of My Tho, An Giang and Quang Nam provinces and on their outskirts, in co-operation with armed home-guards and guerrillas, took control of a great many of these "strategic hamlets" and disbanded many "popular defence" units. Even in Saigon, many wicked enemy agents were made away with.

These political actions assumed varied forms, from street demonstrations to confrontations to foil enemy raids.

In the northernmost part of South Viet Nam, south of the DMZ on the 17th parallel, 35 Marines and puppet troops engaged near Con Tien and Dong Ha suffered heavy losses bringing the enemy toll in the first half of August to nearly 1,000 casualties (900 GLs), 42 vehicles destroyed, 12 aircraft downed and 5 vessels sunk or burnt.

In Hue sector, in addition to the onset against the airfield in the Citadel and enemy positions as mentioned in our last issue, the patriotic forces knocked out a US company, burnt and destroyed to a depth of war material and a dozen blockhouses and barracks in a daring coup de main on the night of August 11. In the Da Nang sector, the PLAF maintained their pressure in the areas south, southeast and southwest of the city: 17 targets were hit on the night of Aug. 11 and about one thousand enemy casualties (700 GLs) were listed on August 12 and 13. Between the night of Aug. 11 and 14, US Da Nang base was struck three times in 6 days ending August 17, 1,000 adverse troops and 12 vehicles were wiped out and 4 aircraft downed in Quang Ngai province.

Summing up, enemy losses in the First Tactical Area were very heavy, particularly in so far as Armoured Infantry Division 5, Airborne Division 10 and American Division were concerned.

These onslaughts, chiefly those launched in the Binh Long and Tay Ninh sectors, despite the enemy concentration of 20 battalions and 500 armoured vehicles, testify to the high fighting spirit and huge potentials of the PLAF which are developing increasingly in all fields, particularly in the tactical methods against enemy motorized and armoured forces and entrenched camps. On the other hand the setbacks suffered by the US expose the utter impotence of Abrams' defensive strategy and tactics and augur ill of his desperate attempt to "Vietnamize" the war and to curtail American losses.

In Saigon, nearly 200 public transport workers reaffirmed at a meeting held on August 17 at the seat of the General Federation of La-

bour, their resolute opposition to the decision of the puppet administration to close the bus state-run enterprise, thus rendering idle hundreds of workers. Notice was served by the protesters on the puppet administration, threatening it with a general strike in case their demand would not be met.

This action of the Saigon bus drivers has stirred world opinion and, on behalf of civil servants in 65 countries, the public servants' international TU sent a letter to the Saigon administration to back the South Vietnamese workers.

Besides, on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the bloody repression of the Buddhists in South Viet Nam towns and cities by the Ngo Dinh Diem administration (August 20), the Bureau of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon made public a statement by the Bonze Superior, director of the Institute, demanding cancellation of the illegal condemnation of Bonze Superior Thich Thien Minh, chief of the Buddhist Youth, and abrogation of law 23-1967 authorizing the reactionary bonze Thich Tam Chau to split the Buddhist movement. The statement called on Buddhists to fight for peace in South Viet Nam.

Foreign press correspondents in Saigon reported that the Thien-Ky-Huong clique had closed down on August 16 the weekly Dien Dan (Triangle) right at its first issue, under the pretext that it carried cartoons ridiculing the puppet regime.

POWERFUL STEP-UP OF POLITICAL AGITATION IN FIRST HALF OF 1969

Popular action was no less strong in contested and liberated areas, and thwarted to a great extent the notorious "accelerated pacification" campaign of the US-puppets.

In southern Long An, where their armed forces in May for the first time had concentrated 200 attacks on enemy troops engaged in "pacification" operations. In two

successive assaults on a position in Long An town, they wiped out 125 enemy soldiers. In the same period, 120 "strategic hamlets" were demolished by the people while, during which the attackers put out of action 170 enemy soldiers.

In the delta provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, An Giang and Kien Phong, the people in the three summer months heavily trounced 26 "pacification" groups and knocked out many troops in their support.

Within four days in mid-May, 13 such groups were made short work in the central part of Central Viet Nam.

The so-called "Popular Defence Forces" a prop of the faltering "accelerated pacification" program were also battered, with tens of

thousands of their men disabled in these six months. Many areas have completely got rid of these bands in the southern provinces. It has become a practice among "Popular Defence" men to hand in their weapons and turn a new leaf.

The grassroot puppet administration, as a result, is fast collapsing. Most of the "elections" to village puppet administrative in the central provinces have been boycotted by the people while, in the villages, village depots are reporting themselves to the revolutionary authorities.

Meanwhile, People's Revolutionary Committees of all levels have been established in most of the provinces by end of June, following the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam early that month.

Struggle was particularly fierce against enemy atrocities and for democratic liberties. There were marches, strikes in which the masses confronted the enemy with his victims, alive or dead, to his utter confusion. The demonstrations against wanton bombardments in

Long An, Bien Hoa, My Tho, Can Tho, Gia Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces draw in even religious priests.

Strikes in the towns were expanded to a larger scale and put out a variety of demands: 1,000 workers in the capital of Quang Ngai province struck for price cuts and US withdrawal. Peasants tilling terraced fields in Tay Ninh and Long Khanh provinces, in great numbers, village depots are reporting themselves to the revolutionary authorities.

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, My Tho and other major urban centres, there were demands for lower prices of rice, sugar, flour, and reduction of import taxes. In Saigon in particular, loud protests have been raised against the bombing of Lamberton airport, the rise of living costs of thousands of families and the dissolution of collective management of businesses, which threatens thousands of drivers with unemployment.